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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
17 December 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Developments in Countries on the Counter-insurgency List

1. Laos

Right-wing forces are maintaining positions gained following recent military initiatives in northern and central Laos. There are some indications, however, that Pathet Lao forces supported by North Vietnamese units are preparing countermoves, particularly in the area to the east of Lak Sao where rightist forces pushed to within 20 miles of the North Vietnamese border. Souphanouvong's prolonged absence from Khang Khay and the relative mildness of the Pathet Lao response to the military moves suggest that the North Vietnamese may be reassessing their tactics in Laos.

2. South Vietnam

The Viet Cong are continuing to increase their military capabilities by infiltrating personnel from North Vietnam. Although the entry of only about 950 cadres and specialists has been confirmed this year, there is evidence that at least another 1,000 probably have entered South Vietnam. This evidence is confined largely to groups destined for Military Region V in the central part of the country, but it is likely that similar numbers have also been sent to the southern areas. Data on infiltration to the latter have been consistently fragmentary and incomplete.

The flow of infiltrators does not appear to be significantly greater than that of the past two years, and the character appears generally the same. Infiltrators comprise mostly cadre groups for infantry battalions and specialists for heavy weapons and other support units, with perhaps some new emphasis on antiaircraft weapons specialists. Arrival of these elements will permit "fleshing out" of the support elements for the regiments being formed in various parts of the country, and will enhance Viet Cong capabilities for supporting larger scale attacks.

3. Dominican Republic

Government mop-up operations against remaining bands of guerrillas are proceeding slowly but with apparent success.

The existence of six guerrilla fronts as claimed by the pro-Castro 14th of June Political Group (APCJ) has now been confirmed by official sources. Three of these have been neutralized and the others are the object of concentrated pressure from government troops. As of 13 December, 47 insurgents had been reported captured, including three of the APCJ's twelve field commanders and political advisers. Ten other guerrillas have been killed.

With the guerrilla threat at least temporarily under control, there are increasing reports that a series of isolated bombings in Santo Domingo soon will be replaced by a coordinated campaign of murder and sabotage. APCJ militants are said to be discouraged by the apparent failure of their guerrilla efforts and are demanding that their political leaders show more willingness to undertake violence. Reports that Cuban assistance to Dominican Castro-Communists will be forthcoming, while still unconfirmed, are increasing.

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5. Venezuela

Thirty-three terrorist incidents were reported during the week 5-11 December, about half of the previous week's record 65. The major foreign targets were British firms, attacked in retaliation from the extradition from Trinidad of the hijackers of a Venezuelan airliner. The leaders of the Communist-directed Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN) held Britain to blame for Trinidad's decision to extradite the criminals, but impartially attacked both embassies.

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